

Oilseeds production

†1041. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a continuous decline in the production of oilseeds in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that area of mustard cultivation has declined considerably during the current year as compared to the previous year;

(c) whether the main reasons for fall in area of cultivation of mustard is higher prices of wheat and gram apart from not getting the support price for mustard; and

(d) if so, the details therefor, State-wise and the steps taken by Government in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Following table gives the production of oilseeds in the country for the year 2001-02 to 2005-06:

Year	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Production of Oilseeds (Million Tonnes)	20.66	14.84	25.19	24.35	27.73

As per 4th advance estimates released to 15.07.2006.

Production of oilseeds shows year-wise fluctuations. Year 2002-03 was a drought affected year, and in 2004-05 rainfall was 13% less than its long period average which affected the oilseeds production in the country.

(b) As per the reports received in the Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 24th November 2006, the area coverage under rapeseeds & msutard so far is 57.73 lakh hectares compared to 62.28 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. Sowing of rapeseed & msutard is still going on, more area is likely to be covered under the crop.

(c) Following table gives the monthly average wholesale price indices (WPI) for rapeseed & mustard, wheat and gram from June 2006 to October 2006 and percentage increase during this period:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commodity	Monthly Average WPI for 2006					% Increase (October over June)
	June	July	August	September	October	
Rapeseed & Mustard	165.7	163.6	166.7	168.4	167.6	1.1
Wheat	200.0	201.1	207.4	216.7	221.1	10.6
Gram	187.8	189.4	196.7	215.7	235.7	25.5

The percentage increase in WPI of rapeseed & mustard is much lower than that of wheat and gram. However, for the 2006-07 marketing season the minimum support price (MSP) of rapeseed & mustard is Rs. 1715/- per quintal compared to Rs. 750/- per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1445/- per quintal for gram.

(d) The States mainly contributing to the fall in area of cultivation of rapeseed & mustard as reported in the CWWG meeting held on 24th November 2006 are Uttar Pradesh (-2.21 lakh hectares), Madhya Pradesh (-2.08 lakh hectares) and Haryana (-0.89 lakh hectares).

The Government has been monitoring the prices of essential commodities closely on a regular basis. The Government announced the MSP of rapeseed & mustard, wheat and gram on 27th/30th October 2006 so that the farmer gets the price signal.

Making small holdings remunerative

†1042. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of farmers having small holding in the country, agriculture has become totally unremunerative;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of necessary infrastructural facilities, the agriculture sector has not been able to develop properly;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.